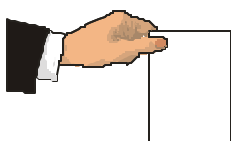


Fall 2000

## Routing Slip

☐ Managers  
☐ Supervisors  
☐ Mechanics  
☐ Drivers



Please share the *Passenger Trans-actions* with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

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(Editor's Note: Sorry for the huge number of acronyms in the Table of Contents. Read on for further details.)

## FY2002 Application Instructions are Out!

The FY 2002 Application Instructions were mailed October 31. All public transit agencies must submit their Annual Application using the Public Transportation Management System (PTMS). Below are some highlights of the FY 2002 Annual Application.

**Revenue and Expense Manual.** The Administrative Rules now require eligible and ineligible expense and revenue definitions to annually be included in the application instructions. The expense and revenue estimates submitted and agreed to in the approved annual application budget from the transit agencies shall be in agreement with the Revenue and Expense Manual included in the instructions.

**Title VI/EEO Compliance Application.** This year every agency that contracts with the state needs to complete the new Title VI/EEO Application, which is included with the application packet.

**Contract Clauses.** Last year, the process for transit agencies and Section 5310 agencies to certify compliance with federal requirements was modified. It is now an annual certification process, and the clauses will be referenced in the contracts but not attached. The certification is included in the application packet.

**Comments Requested.** In our effort to continuously improve the annual application process and guidelines, we welcome your comments on this year's application. As you complete the application, please jot down any comments you have and send them to your project manager or to Gus Lluberres by e-mail at [lluberresg@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:lluberresg@mdot.state.mi.us). Both MDOT and the Management Advisory Team will review the comments.

## **Project Zero Becomes Statewide Program**

On October 1, 2000, Project Zero became a statewide program with a total of 104 Project Zero sites. To date, 78 sites have successfully reached zero which means that every targeted case had earned income at some point.

One of the reasons for the success of this program is that local partners come together to develop plans for services needed in their community. Creative and unique approaches have been encouraged.

Currently, Transportation Services Section (TSS) staff are reviewing the submitted plans and securing the necessary state funding to implement the plans. The funding split for transportation services will be 50 percent MDOT and 25 percent from both the Michigan Department of Career Development and the Family Independence Agency.

For additional information, contact Lisa Funk at 517/373-8746 or e-mail [funkl@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:funkl@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **Specialized Services Seminars Hosted by MDOT**

Representatives from specialized services agencies and transit agencies, as well as MDOT staff attended the three Specialized Services Seminars held on September 19-21, 2000 in Grand Rapids, Mackinaw City, and Farmington Hills.

Guest speaker, Katherine Freund, Executive Director of the Independent Transportation Network in Portland, Maine shared her unique transportation model for seniors with the 140 attendees. Other topics included an Act 51 update, Administrative Rules overview, SEMCOG's Elderly Mobility Final Plan of Action, and insurance coverage, and liability issues.

Contact Rose Ann Ward for information on senior and disability issues at 517/335-2598 or e-mail [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **2000 PTD Annual Meeting Wrap-Up**

Nearly 200 people, representing transit agencies, specialized services providers, Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) staff, and vendors attended the 2000 World of Transit PTD Annual Meeting in Midland.

Special guest Jerry Teplitz shared methods for increasing professional power to new levels of excellence and special guest Edward D. Barlow, Jr. discussed regionalism in the next millennium. Break-out sessions included such topics as managing your stress, marketing, vehicle procurement, development of an employee handbook, exploring the world of transit, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, public transit's role in a disaster, and an update on the 2000-2020 Michigan Transit Strategic Plan.

A major addition to the meeting this year was the Federal Transit Administration's Advanced Public Transportation Systems (APTS) Mobile Showcase (see picture below). The 48-foot APTS mobile showcase is an expandable exhibition trailer that demonstrates state-of-the-art technologies and promotes the benefits of using integrated APTS technologies to improve safety, increase operational efficiency, and enhance service quality.

The Showcase also serves as a mechanism for educating the transit community. Two overview tours were offered on Bus Stop, The Intelligent Bus, Control Center, Service Support Center, and Bus Technologies. Specific courses were offered on ITS in Transit Overview, Transit Fleet Management Systems, and Traveler Information Systems. The Showcase was unveiled May 8 at APTA's Bus & Paratransit Conference in Houston, Texas and now tours the country with stops at various transportation conferences, transit agencies, universities, and other venues.



# RTAP Helps Rural Transit Agencies Meet the Unique Needs of Their Clients

Transportation can be a real challenge for 53 million rural residents. Fortunately, the federal government recognized this challenge, and, in 1979, enacted Section 18 (now Section 5311) of the Federal Transit Act to help states provide needed rural transportation systems. This helped provide transportation to approximately 60 percent of the rural population.

Initially, rural transportation systems faced unique demands because nearly half of their riders were elderly and/or required special equipment or assistance. To help rural transit agencies obtain the skills and knowledge to meet these demands, the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) was created.

RTAP provides money to each state to bring training materials and opportunities to rural transit operators. This assistance may include technical assistance for an agency or grants/scholarships to attend trainings/seminars that focus on issues affecting rural transit operations. RTAP money is available for rural transit agencies that receive Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 or Section 5310 funds.

In addition, a national Rural Transit Assistance Program was established to provide a central resource for states to get high quality education and training materials. Occasionally, the national RTAP develops a new training module and sends one copy of the new module to each state. In Michigan, all eligible RTAP agencies are notified regarding the new module and given the opportunity to obtain a copy.

The training modules may also be purchased by any agency to assist with training needs. The modules (see list at the end of this article) are priced from \$35 to \$45 with lower costs for members of the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Contact the CTAA for purchase information at 1341 G Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005; telephone 202/628-1480 or 800/527-8279; fax 202/737-9197).

RTAP helps fill the special needs of rural transit that aren't addressed by any other source. While the amount of money available yearly to each eligible rural transit agency is not huge, a little goes a long way to help provide training to meet the unique needs of rural transit clients.

For more information on the Michigan RTAP program, contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 or e-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us). Also, the National RTAP program's resource center may be able to provide additional information about specific transit-related topics. Contact the resource center at 1/800-527-8279 or check out the resources available on its Web site: [www.ctaa.org/pubs](http://www.ctaa.org/pubs).

*Much of the information for this article provided by the National RTAP Program's "Let's Talk RTAP" publication. See related RTAP article on page 7.*

Current RTAP training modules:

- TM1 STARTS (Special Transit and Rural Transit Safety)
- TM2 Emergency Procedures for Rural Transit Drivers
- TM3 Essential Skills for Dispatching
- TM4 Essential Skills for Trainers
- TM5 Roles and Responsibilities of Transit Board Members
- TM6 Understanding the Capabilities and Needs of Special Passengers
- TM8 Risk Management for Rural Transit Systems
- TM9 Safe Transport of the Public Under the ADA
- TM10 Building Quality Service - Everyone's a Customer
- TM11 Transportation Coordination: A Guide to Making It Work for You
- TM12 Trading Places - Assisting Passengers with Special Needs
- TRC Training Resources Catalog

## **Michigan Department of Transportation**

James R. DeSana, Director

## **Urban and Public Transportation**

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

Kip Grimes, Administrator

## **Transportation Commission**

Barton W. LaBelle, Chairman

Jack L. Gingrass, Vice Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

John W. Garside

Betty Jean Awrey

## Around the State

### New Park and Bus Shelter Dedicated in Pinconning

Congratulations to the city of Pinconning and Bay Metro Transit Authority on their recent joint project – Hartwick Park and Bus Stop. At the center of Hartwick Park is a beautiful new Victorian bus shelter donated by Bay Metro Transit Authority.

The park is located one block from City Hall and two blocks from the new senior citizen apartment building and the proposed new library. The park and bus shelter were dedicated in October and are beautiful additions to the city.



### EATRAN Celebrates 20 Years of Service

In September, Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an outdoor barbecue, refreshments, cake, and popcorn. Deb Schueller from Representative Susan Tabor's office presented Carol Monroe, Board Vice Chairman, with a special tribute plaque. Also, Kip Grimes, PTD Administrator, addressed the guests and presented EATRAN with a commemorative plaque.

EATRAN opened its doors on September 23, 1980, and began serving a population of 92,879 as a county-wide demand response system. Since then, EATRAN has grown to a fleet of 20 lift equipped buses that provide over 150,000 rides each year. Congratulations, EATRAN.

### EUPTA Welcomes Drummond Islander IV

Congratulations to Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority (EUPTA) on its new Drummond Islander IV vessel. The 150-foot vessel is designed to carry up to 32 vehicles and has accommodations for passengers as well. The \$3.1 million vessel is funded through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Federal Ferryboat Discretionary Program. EUPTA and MDOT provide the 20 percent match for this marine capital program.



The Drummond Islander IV was designed by Tim Graul of Graul & Associates in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and is being built by Basic Marine in Escanaba, Michigan. It is anticipated that the new vessel will be delivered to EUPTA in November 2000.

In other EUPTA news, two employees will be retiring soon. In November Bob Jones, EUPTA Marine Operations Manager, is retiring after 12 years with EUPTA. Bob has 22 years of public transportation service with 10 years at the Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) in Lansing, Michigan before joining EUPTA.

Also, Judi Walsh, EUPTA's Executive Director, is retiring in January 2001 with 25 years of public transportation service at EUPTA. Judi's and Bob's contributions to developing EUPTA's bus and marine transportation programs have been exceptional. Congratulations to Judi and Bob and best wishes in your retirements.

The Passenger Trans-Actions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call (517) 373-2051 (e-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us)). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward (517) 335-2598. Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).



## **Charlevoix County Celebrates 20 Years of Public Transportation**

Congratulations to Charlevoix County Transit on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An open house was held in August to celebrate the occasion.

In August 1980, Charlevoix County Transit under the direction of Art Saworski began providing public transportation services to county residents. After Art retired in 1997, Oral Sutliff became the director and is looking forward to many more years of service to Charlevoix County residents. Congratulations, Charlevoix County Transit.

## **MATS Starts Work on New Facility**

Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new operations and maintenance facility to be completed by August 2001. The new 30,500 square foot facility will feature a visitors lobby, conference and training center, special events space, administrative offices, dispatch area, maintenance area, indoor vehicle parking, and a bus service lane for fueling, servicing, cleaning, and fare collection.

The facility will be located in the city of Muskegon Heights, and is funded with grant assistance from the Federal Transit Administration and MDOT.

## **Intermodal Cooperation in the U.P.**

On the morning of October 26, 2000, air service to the K.I. Sawyer International Airport in the Upper Peninsula was canceled due to fog. Fortunately, Greyhound Lines, Inc., provides service to the airport as a result of a recent schedule change. The carrier was able to pick up approximately 25 travelers and transport them to the Milwaukee Airport.

This is an excellent example of how intermodal cooperation can provide options to help travelers reach their destinations.

## **Harbor Transit Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Harbor Transit celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 25, 2000. Among the 100 people attending the celebration were Senator Leon Stille, MPTA Executive Director Clark Harder, UPTRAN Deputy Director Philip Kazmierski, and MDOT Project Manager Connie Benca. The master of ceremonies was Grand Haven Assistant City Manager Mitchell Deisch and the event speaker was Grand Haven City Manager Ryan Cotton.

During the ceremony, Philip Kazmierski presented checks and trophies from the 2000 Michigan Small Bus Roadeo to Harbor Transit drivers Ed D'Oyly, Margaret Brown, and Patrick Hanna. The Harbor Transit team tied for second in the state, and Ed D'Oyly tied for first in individual competition.

Harbor Transit began in 1975 with four small vans and eleven employees. Bus fares were 25 cents and 50 cents. Starting out in a small one room office located at the "old Grand Haven Fire Barn," the system moved to a new transit facility in Grand Haven in June 1982. In 1991, the transit facility expanded to 26,000 square feet to include maintenance bays, wash bay, vehicle storage, intermodal passenger lobby, and administrative offices.

Since 1975, Harbor Transit has transported over 4.1 million passengers and traveled 9.8 million miles. Today, Harbor Transit operates 15 buses and three trolleys. A fourth trolley is expected to be delivered in April 2001.

Harbor Transit is a division of the city of Grand Haven and provides services to other communities through inter-local agreements. City residents currently pay a 0.361 mil on their property taxes for the transportation services. Voters first approved the tax as 1 mil in May 1976.



*Beginning with this edition of the Passenger Trans-actions, we will feature a unit of PTD in each edition. Our first featured unit is the Statewide Coordination Unit which is part of the Transportation Services Section managed by Kim Johnson.*

## PTD Statewide Coordination Unit Wears Many Hats

The Statewide Coordination Unit is responsible for administering program level activities related to public transit's role in welfare reform and regional transportation. This unit also provides technical assistance regarding senior and disability issues, and is responsible for the Intercity Bus Service Development and Facility programs and the statewide rideshare program.

Another unit responsibility is oversight of the Specialized Services Coordination Team (SSCT) which promotes the coordination of human service agency transportation activities. The team also recommends service improvements that address transportation issues of the senior and disabled population. When applicable, it reviews and comments on proposed legislation that impacts transportation services and funding geared toward seniors and those with disabilities. In addition, the SSCT monitors the implementation of the Regional Transportation Program and reviews and comments on the annual application process and funding recommendations for the state Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program and the Section 5310 Capital Assistance program. Anyone wishing to serve on this team may contact the Statewide Coordination Unit's supervisor **Lisa Funk** at 517/373-8746 or by e-mail [funkl@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:funkl@mdot.state.mi.us).



Statewide Coordination Unit. Back row: Rose Ann Ward, Angie Payne, and Forest Kraus. Front row: Linda Tuttle and Lisa Funk.

**Forest Kraus** is a Project Manager and facilitates the Intercity Bus Service Development and Facility programs. He maintains databases on intercity bus ridership, and, when necessary, acts as a "trouble shooter" between the intercity bus carriers and transit agencies or customers. Forest is also responsible for addressing policy issues related to the operations of the intercity bus program. Forest may be contacted at 517/335-2572 or by e-mail [krausf2@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:krausf2@mdot.state.mi.us).

**Angie Payne** is the Statewide Rideshare Coordinator and monitors contracts for 12 local rideshare offices and for the MichiVan program. Angie is also responsible for implementing the Commuter Choice Program and has been instrumental in expanding the rideshare program by capitalizing on funding sources, such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Amoco Overcharge funds. Due to her resourcefulness, a rideshare brochure was recently published and new highway signs were erected within the rideshare office regions to inform motorists of the program. In addition, increased funding has resulted in the establishment of two new rideshare regions and expanded coverage area in a few offices. Angie may be contacted at 517/335-2553 or by e-mail [paynea@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:paynea@mdot.state.mi.us).

**Linda Tuttle** is a Departmental Analyst and is responsible for development and implementation of the Michigan Transit Strategic Plan. She also provides oversight of the regional transportation program, including maintaining ridership information and project reports. Linda is the team leader for the planning of the PTD Annual Meeting and secures the facility and guest speakers for the meeting. Under her direction, the attendance at the PTD Annual Meeting continues to grow by both participants and vendors. Linda may be contacted at 517/373-7645 or by e-mail [tuttle1@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:tuttle1@mdot.state.mi.us).

**Rose Ann Ward** is the Aging and Disability Specialist and is responsible for providing technical assistance regarding the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other elderly and disability issues. She works closely with external aging and disability organizations in an advocacy role to address transportation concerns. She brings a sensitivity to her position that has proven invaluable. Rose Ann also provides program level assistance on FTA's Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) program and other welfare reform initiatives. She assisted in completing PTD's grant application for the JARC program to help secure federal dollars for this worthwhile effort. Rose Ann may be contacted at 517/335-2598 or by e-mail [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **Allison Transmission Issues Campaign Notice**

Allison Transmission recently sent out a campaign notice regarding vehicles equipped with the AT542/ AT545 model transmission and with serial numbers between 3210988813 and 3211064342. If your vehicles meet the campaign criteria, contact your nearest authorized Allison Transmission distributor or dealer for needed repairs.

If you have an ElDorado National medium duty bus and need to determine if it is part of the campaign, please check the serial number on the transmission identification plate located on the passenger side of the transmission housing just above the oil pan. If you have any questions, please contact your vehicle service coordinator.

## **Two New MTCE Projects Awarded**

Two new projects were recently awarded through the Michigan Transit Center for Excellence (MTCE).

Wayne State University was awarded the Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Composite Bus Body Structural Integrity Analysis project. This project will provide input on the structural strength and safety of the FRP body.

Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Research Center, was awarded the Lateral Stiffness Requirements for Vehicle Specifications project. This project will determine the specification requirements for lateral stiffness in the vehicle body to reduce deformation of the driver and passenger compartment to increase safety in the event of a crash for both steel cage and FRP composite bodies. Because this project will use information from the FRP project, it will not start until the completion of the FRP project.

Jerome Jonson is the project manager for both of these projects. Please contact him for more information about these projects at 517/335-2568 or by e-mail [jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us).



**"Providing the highest quality transportation services"**

## **Guidelines Issued for the FY 2001 RTAP Program**

The guidelines for the FY 2001 Michigan Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) were mailed in early October. Several changes have been made in the program this year.

! For FY 2001, the maximum annual cap for eligible transit agencies is \$3,500.

! All expense vouchers must be submitted for reimbursement within 60 days after the training date or the request will be canceled and the agency will not be reimbursed for the training.

! For college courses, RTAP money may be used to attend job related college courses only. Information must be provided with the grant request on how the course is job related. Reimbursement for college courses will be for tuition only.

If you did not receive the FY 2001 RTAP guidelines or want to find out if your agency is eligible to access the RTAP funds, contact either your project manager or Jill Adams, Michigan RTAP coordinator, for more information. Jill may be contacted at 517/373-2051 or by e-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **Advisory Team Updates**

### **Transit Vehicle & Equipment Advisory Team Meets**

The Transit Vehicle & Equipment Advisory Team met in October and will prepare large bus specifications for bid in 2001. The team also recommended the minivan conversion/full size van conversion be made a local purchase option. Transit agencies are encouraged to take advantage of State pricing on extended contracts for the standard van or minivan. A transit agency may then coordinate the delivery of the van to their selected conversion van company. Also, the team will put together sample conversion van specifications for both a minivan and full size van.

Anyone interested in participating on this advisory team should contact Al Johnson at (517) 335-2549 or e-mail at [johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us).



## **Advisory Team Updates (continued)**

### **Management Advisory Team Has a Busy Year**

“Improving the way we do business” is the millennium theme for the 17 transit providers and MDOT members of the Management Advisory Team (MAT). And so far the team has surpassed its own expectations!

The newest and most significant proposed improvement would replace the current contracting process with a streamlined process. The new process should reduce the amount of annual paperwork and effort involved in executing and administering contracts. Through issues identified in the Public Transit Strategic Plan Survey and discussions between project managers and providers, MAT investigated a number of options. The recommended process involves a 5-year Master Contract, a Master Resolution, and individual program Project Authorizations.

The master contract process was presented at the PTD Annual Meeting and is available for review on the PTD Web site: <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/ptd/teams/mgmt.htm>. The question and answer format describes the process, identifies a development format, and requests your comments on the initiative prior to December. MAT members are available to attend regionally-based meetings to discuss the process in detail.

The FY 2002 Annual Application Instructions also show MAT's efforts toward improving business practices. MAT used annual application instructions from last year to provide comments on the draft FY 2002 instructions. To better prepare for next year's review, MAT is asking you to take notes while completing the application and provide written comments about the instructions and process to your project manager or via e-mail to Gus Lluberes [lluberesg@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:lluberesg@mdot.state.mi.us) (see related article on page 1).

The Team also reviewed and commented on the revisions to the FY 2002 Revenue and Expense Manual, and reviewed comments received by MDOT about the Manual. The Revenue and Expense Manual is included in the FY 2002 Annual Application Instructions packet.

MAT reviewed the FY 2001 Service Development and New Technology (SDNT) funding applications and recommended revisions to some applications.

MAT is committed to continuing to improve the business processes used by transit providers and MDOT. If you are interested in joining MAT, please contact Wynell Brush at 517/335-2594 or by e-mail [brushw@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:brushw@mdot.state.mi.us). We are particularly interested in adding members to represent the urban perspective. The last meeting for 2000 is December 21 in Lansing. You can get more information about the Management Advisory Team by visiting the PTD Web site at <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/teams/mgmt.htm>.

### **Training & Education Advisory Team Meets**

In September, the Training & Education Advisory Team met to discuss many issues, including the FY 2001 RTAP allocation for eligible transit agencies. The team made a recommendation regarding the RTAP cap, as well as guidelines for using RTAP funds for college classes (see related RTAP article on page 7). The team also discussed the specialty training network, the transit training plan status, training district resource centers, the training needs assessment developed by a team subgroup, and Internet training resources.

The team reviewed two videotapes: The Impact of Alzheimer's (Project Action) and Safe Transport of the Public under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) - RTAP Module TM9. The team thought both of these videos were excellent and is recommending that the Alzheimer's tape be provided to each district training resource center. All transit systems are encouraged to purchase the ADA tape for themselves or in groups.

Finally, the completion of a state-of-the-art training center at Flint Mass Transportation Authority was discussed. The team is looking forward to attending future training sessions at this facility.

For further information about these items or the advisory team, please contact Amy Edgar, Team Leader, at 517/373-2261 or e-mail [edgara@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:edgara@mdot.state.mi.us).



# SUMT Committee Becomes SUPTAC Committee

In September 1994, the Statewide and Urban Modeling Technical Committee (SUMT) was established as a joint effort by MDOT and the Directors of the planning agencies that oversee the Transportation Planning Process (3C Directors). Its purpose was to share information between MDOT and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and promote cooperation and technical improvements to the modeling process in Michigan.

Members on the original committee included MDOT staff involved in travel demand modeling plus representatives from MPOs interested in travel demand modeling. In 1996, the membership of the SUMT Committee was expanded to include representatives from public transit agencies along with an expanded role as the Demand Estimation Model Advisory Team for MDOT's Urban and Public Transportation Bureau (UPTRAN).

At its October 17, 2000, meeting, the name of the SUMT Committee was changed to the Statewide and Urban Planning Technical Advisory Committee (SUPTAC) to reflect a more comprehensive set of responsibilities. The revised goals of SUPTAC include:

- ! Serve as a forum to identify the need for and to promote cooperation and improvements to technical activities and processes that support the statewide and urban planning process in Michigan.
- ! Provide an organized forum for the sharing of experience and expertise in those areas that relate to statewide and urban transportation planning.
- ! Provide technical support and recommendations to UPTRAN for technical activities related to local public transportation planning in Michigan.

Current and future activities will include: Michigan's Public Transit Strategic Plan Update and resultant activities; Public Transit Performance Measures Study and resultant activities; oversight for various transit research projects through Wayne State University, Michigan State University, or the University of Michigan (various contracts pending); oversight for Interim Transit Service Strategy (in process); and ongoing recommendations regarding proposed FTA 5313(b) research projects.

SUPTAC also provides oversight for the Transit GIS Training Program being developed by Wayne State University. MDOT's Transportation Planning Bureau will be sending a draft training outline and schedule to all transit agencies with fixed route service and their supporting metropolitan planning organizations for comments.

SUPTAC membership is open to any transit and 3C agency that wishes to participate. Meetings are held in the Van Wagoner Transportation Building in Lansing at 1:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. If you would like additional information regarding the SUPTAC committee, or if your agency would like to participate in the committee, please contact Richard Nellettr at 517/335-2958 or e-mail [nellettr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:nellettr@mdot.state.mi.us).

## ADA Update

### FTA Issues Guidance on Securement Use

Recently, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Office of Civil Rights issued guidance on wheelchair securement. The guidance is contained in a bulletin published by the FTA Office of Civil Rights entitled, "Questions and Answers Concerning Common Wheelchairs and Public Transit."

Hopefully, the guidance will clarify long-standing issues and confusion surrounding the ADA regulations on securement and lift use. One issue is seatbelt and shoulder harness use and the guidance bulletin has the following question and answer from FTA. *"Does a wheelchair user have to use the seatbelt and shoulder harness? Under the broad non-discrimination provisions in Section 37.5 of the DOT's ADA regulations, a transit operator is not permitted to mandate the use by wheelchair users of seatbelts and shoulder harnesses, unless the operator mandates the use of these devices by all passengers, including those sitting in vehicle seats. For example, on fixed route buses, if none of the other passengers are required to wear shoulder belts, then neither can the person in the mobility device be required to do so. Transit operators may establish a policy that requires the seatbelt and shoulder harness to be used by all riders, including those who use wheelchairs as well as those who use vehicle seats, if seatbelts and shoulder harnesses are provided at all seating locations. In some cases, state law could require an operator to adopt such a policy."*

FTA's guidance is printed in the September 25, 2000, issue of the Transit Access Report. If you would like a copy of the guidance, contact Rose Ann Ward at 517/335-2598 or by e-mail [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us).

## **CTAA's Web Site Has the Latest Transit News**

Check out the Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) Web site for newsworthy updated daily items about or related to transit ([www.ctaa.org/ntrc](http://www.ctaa.org/ntrc)). Also, the CTAA has added a driver recruitment section to its Web site to help transit agencies advertise their driver openings to a wider audience. Visit [www.ctaa.org/ntrc/drivers](http://www.ctaa.org/ntrc/drivers) to see who's already put listings on-line.

Plans for EXPO 2001 in Salt Lake City are already underway. The dates are May 20-25, 2001. If there are topics you would like addressed in a workshop at EXPO 2001, call the CTAA Hotline at 202/628-1480, ext. 124, or e-mail Janet McGlynn ([mcglynn@ctaa.org](mailto:mcglynn@ctaa.org)) with your suggestions.

## **CIS Amends Several Safety Standards**

The Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) recently notified PTD regarding amendments to several safety standards, as well as the rescission of several rules.

### **Amendments:**

- General Industry Safety Standard Part 56 - Storage and handling of liquefied petroleum gases (effective 8/7/00)

- General Industry Safety Standard Part 69 - Compressed gases (effective 8/15/00)

- General Industry Safety Standard Part 93 - Air receivers (effective 8/7/00)

- Occupational Health Standard Part 305 - Asbestos for general industry (effective 8/15/00).

### **Rescission:**

- Occupational Health Standard R 6501 - Personal protective equipment for construction (effective 8/15/00)

- Occupational Health Standard R 325.50074 - Methylenedianiline, rescission of startup dates (effective 8/7/00)

- MIOSHA Standard R 408.501 et seq. - Hearings (effective 8/7/00).

A copy of these standards may be requested from the CIS, Standards Division, P. O. Box 30643, Lansing, MI 48909-8143. The standards are also available on the Standards Division Web site at: [www.cis.state.mi.us/bsr/divisions/std](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bsr/divisions/std).

## **TSI and NTI Offer Training Programs**

The Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) is offering the following training opportunities. The TSI is sponsored by the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. For more information on these training classes, contact the TSI at 405/954-3682.

Instructor's Course in Bus Operator Training  
November 27-30: San Francisco, CA  
January 29-February 1: Las Vegas, NV  
February 26-March 1: San Diego, CA

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation  
January 8-12: Phoenix, AZ

Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies  
January 16-19: Seattle, WA

Fatigue Awareness Seminar  
December 13-14: Phoenix, AZ  
February 27-28: Las Vegas, NV

Transit System Safety  
February 21-22: Long Beach, CA

In addition, the National Transit Institute (NTI) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, offers training programs for the public transit industry. Many of these programs are free to federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies. Listed below are some of the upcoming NTI training events. For more information, contact the NTI at 732/932-1700, or check out its Web site at [www.ntionline.com](http://www.ntionline.com).

Comprehensive ADA Paratransit Eligibility  
November 14: Kansas City, MO

Contract Administration  
December 4: Atlanta, GA

Coordinating Transportation and Land Use  
December 6: Frankfort, KY

Evaluation of Training  
December 12: Philadelphia, PA

Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Programming  
December 13: Austin, TX